

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Dear Sir,

RE: INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant submits the following statement in accordance with 37 CFR §§1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, along with the references listed on the enclosed USPTO Form 1449.

I. This Information Disclosure Statement is made:

- Within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 37 CFR §1.53(d), in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(b)(1).
- Within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR §1.491 in an international application, in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(b)(2).
- \underline{X} Before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits, in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(b)(3).
- Before the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 CFR §1.114, in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(b)(4).
- Before the mailing date of any of a final action under 37 CFR §1.113, a notice of allowance under 37 CFR §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution, in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(c).
 - Applicant states that each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the

filing of the information disclosure statement, in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).

- Applicant states that no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement, in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2).
- The fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p) is enclosed.
- After the mailing date of any of a final action under 37 CFR §1.113, a notice of allowance under 37 CFR §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(d).
 - Applicant states that each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement, in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).
 - Applicant states that no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement, in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2).
 - The fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p) is enclosed.
- II. Regarding copies of the patents, applications, and other documents listed on the attached USPTO Form 1449:
- _ A copy of each US and foreign patent application, and of each other publication is attached.

X As this application was filed after June 30, 2003, no US patent or published application copies are enclosed. A copy of each foreign patent or application is attached.

Some or all of the documents listed on Form 1449 are not enclosed, as they were cited in the International Search Report, and copies should therefore exist on the USPTO file. Please advise if copies are required.

III. Language and relevance of documents:

X All documents are submitted in the English Language, and no statement of relevance is required.

At least one document is not in the English language, and:

- A concise explanation of the relevance of each non-English document follows:
- An English version of the search report or action that indicated the degree of relevance of the non-English document is attached, which serves as a concise explanation of the relevance of the document.

Respectfully submitted

Andrew R. Hicks **くら**# 39,*46号* Hicks & Penman Ltd.

Enclosures:

- 1. USPTO Form 1449
- 2. Copies/translations of foreign patent documents

PTO/SB/08A (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

ons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number. Under the Paperwork Redu

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

Sheet

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

APR 1 1 2005

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known			
Application Number	10/810,593		
Filing Date	March 29, 2004		
First Named Inventor	Palmer, Robert M.		
Art Unit	1724		
Examiner Name	unknown		
Attorney Docket Number	P 272 US		

			U. S. PATENT	DOCUMENTS	
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Document Number Number-Kind Code ^{2 (# known)}	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code	07.00.4006	Luvemburg	
		^{US-} 4,599,117	07-08-1986	Luxemburg	
		^{US-} 5,814,230	09-29-1998	Willis et al	
		^{US-} 2,756,965	07-31-1956	Howe	
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		FORE	IGN PATENT DOCU	IMENTS		
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages	6
		Country Code ³ "Number ⁴ "Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY		Or Relevant Figures Appear	
		CA-2,219,053	11-22-1997	Rowney		
		CA-2,099,554	01-03-1995	Kallis		<u> </u>
	-					-
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	1					

	Date	
Examiner		
Signature	Considered	
Cignature		

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.